

PRESIDENT KENNEDY

Mr. Dulles, Mr. McCone and members of the Central Intelligence Agency. I want to first of all express my appreciation to you all for the opportunity that this ceremony gives to tell you how grateful we are in the Government and in the country for the services that the personnel of this Agency rendered to the country. It is not always easy, your successes are unheralded, your failures are trumpeted. I sometimes have that feeling about myself... (laughter) but I am sure you realize how important your work, how essential it is, and how in the long sweep of history how significant your efforts will be judged. So I do want to express my appreciation to you now and I am confident that in the future you will continue to merit the appreciation of our country as you have in the past. I am also particularly grateful because this ceremony gives us all an opportunity to pay tribute to an outstanding public servant. Allen Dulles' career as a citizen of this country and one who has made his vast resources, personal resources, available to this country stretches all the way back to the administration of President Woodrow Wilson. I know of no other American in the history of this country who has served in seven administrations of seven presidents, varying from party to party, from point to point to point of view, from problem to problem, and yet at the end of each administration, each President of the United States has paid tribute to his service and also has counted Allen Dulles as their friend. This is an extraordinary record and I know that all of you who have worked with him understand why this record has been made. I regard Allen Dulles as an ^{almost} unique figure in our country. I know of no man who brings a greater sense of personal commitment to his work, who has less pride in office than he has and therefore I was most gratified when we were permitted today to come out

to this Agency to present this award to him in your presence. I would like to read the citation.

Allen Welsh Dulles (would you step forward Allen) is hereby awarded the National Security Medal. (He has every other decoration and so we wanted to give him this one.) as principal intelligence advisor to the President of the United States. Mr. Dulles has fulfilled the responsibilities of his office with unswerving purpose and high dedication. His ten years of service in the Central Intelligence Agency have been the climax of a lifetime of unprecedented and devoted public service. Beginning in the first world war and stretching through the administration of seven presidents, the outstanding contributions that Mr. Dulles has made to the security of the United States have been based upon a profound knowledge of the role of the intelligence officer, a broad understanding of international relations and a naturally keen judgment of man and affairs. The zestful energy and undaunted integrity of his service to his country will be an enduring example to the profession he has done so much to create.